Sir, this has two implications firstly, our exports are being adversely affected because these foreign companies are selling the rice, which is a product of America, in the name of Basmati. Secondly the attraction towards Basmati rice is diminishing. Therefore, I request the Government to pass some law whereby our *Basmati* is protected and other Indian products also get protection so that the foreign companies may not produce and sell their own products in the name of our products and the country's exports may not suffer.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad): Hon. Mr. Speaker, the area between Faizabad and Agra in my constituency has suffered great damage from the floods in the rivers Yamuna and Chambal. Nearly 10,000 cattle have died and six thousand houses have been destroyed. People have become homeless and are arranging for shelters by putting up small tents. The Prime Minister had announced relief for the flood-striken people and Members in the House had also pleaded for it. The Government of Uttar Pradesh have asked for monetary assistance. It should not be delayed.

Sir, many people have died there. The Prime Minister of the country had given an assurance that compensation will be paid to the families of the deceased. People are dying in large number due to non-availability of medicines. Epidemic diseases are spreading, taking a big toll of life in absence of medicines. I request the Government of India to provide full compensation to the families of the deceased and make adequate arrangements for supply of medicines.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV (Gonda): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, An agitation has started in Bihar from today in favour of the demand for Vananchal. This is the beginning of the blockade. The Prime Minister announced the formation of Uttarakhand in Uttar Pradesh with an eye on the coming elections. The struggle for Vananchal has been going on for so many years. From administrative point of view and from every other angle, it can become a viable state and should, therefore, be conceded as a full-fledged state. Hon. President had mentioned this in his speech also ...*(Interruptions)* formation of Uttarakhand was announced, but there was no announcement for Vananchal due to which the people of that region are greatly agitated. If the Government do not announce it early, I am afraid the agitation might turn violent causing much damage. ...*(Interruptions)*. The Government should pay attention to this issue.

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Kodarma): Mr. Speaker, there is discrimination against the candidates of S.C., S.T. and O.B.C. in all the examinations held by the Union Public Service Commission. For instance, in the examinations held in 1994-95 and 1996, only 22 per cent O.B.C. candidates were taken as against the reservation of 27 per cent for them. In the Civil Services examinations of 1994, only 25 per cent candidates were cleared. The O.B.C. candidates who qualify in the open competition are added to the reserved category. What will be their future? There does not appear to be any transparency in the implementation of the Government policy. The Railway Board results declared recently in Bangalore reflect adequate transparency.

In the policy that has been notified by the Government, I want that rule 15(1) of the 1994 Notification should be nullified and the interview marks should be placed at 100 instead of 300.

SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA (Satna): Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the situation in village Patra falling under the Development Block of Amarpatan in my constituency. It is a forest area, inhabited by Adivasis. Between 1991 and 1994, Government officers and workers have misappropriated Rs 20 lakhs by preparing fake bills. Thumb impressions of minors were taken and money withdrawn in their names. Officers who tried to enquire into this racket have been transferred. Those involved in this scandal have got the protection of the Government. I want to request the hon. Minister to institute a high level enquiry and arrest and punish the guilty. The Government money which has been drawn in the name of Adivasis for Jeewan Dhara wells and Indira Awas should be immediately returned to the Adivasis.

*[English]*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Sir, there is a new dimension with regard to corruption—what we find in the functioning of banks in some parts of Orissa. Firstly, there is not enough money available in banks even to clear the salary bill of the Government employees, leave apart developmental expenditure bills, and thereby the developmental activities are adversely affected. Secondly, there are also shortages found that too increasingly in the stamped, sealed and tied note bundles issued on withdrawal by the depositors. This is a serious matter and also affects the credibility of the banks.

I would, therefore, request the Government of India, particularly the Finance Ministry—the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here; he should convey it personally to the Finance Minister—to look into this and remedial measures should be taken immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Das, he has already raised the issue of shortage of currency notes. You can simply associate yourself.

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri): Sir, we are facing much difficulties for want of currency notes of